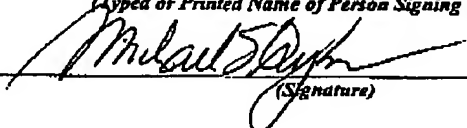


|   |                              |                     |  |  |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 CFR 1.8)</b>  |                              |                     | Docket No.<br>121027-0194                              |  |
| Applicant(s): Masashi NAKASHITA et al.  |                              |                     |  |  |
| Application No.<br>10/602,960   | Filing Date<br>June 24, 2003 | Examiner<br>Ling Xu | Group Art Unit<br>1775                                 |  |
| Invention:<br><b>WATER ABSORBENT STRUCTURE AND PROCESS FOR MAKING THE SAME</b>  |                              |                     |  |  |
|   |                              |                     | <b>RECEIVED<br/>CENTRAL FAX CENTER<br/>FEB 06 2006</b> |  |
| I hereby certify that this <u>Response to Restriction Requirement</u><br>(Identify type of correspondence)<br>is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. <u>571-273-8300</u> )<br>on <u>February 6, 2006</u><br>(Date) |                              |                     |  |  |
| <div style="text-align: right;"><u>Michael S. Gzybowski</u><br/>(Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)<br/><br/>(Signature)</div>                                  |                              |                     |  |  |
| Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.  |                              |                     |  |  |

Appl. No. 10/602,960  
Response Dated February 6, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2006

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PATENT APPLICATION

*IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

*Group*  
*Art Unit:* 1775  
  
*Attorney*  
*Docket No.:* 121027-0194  
  
*Applicants:* Masashi NAKASHITA et al.  
  
*Invention:* WATER-ABSORBENT STRUCTURE AND  
PROCESS FOR MAKING THE SAME  
  
*Serial No:* 10/602,960  
  
*Filed:* 06/24/2003  
  
*Examiner:* Ling Xu

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(b)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
transmitted to the United States Patent and  
Trademark Office via facsimile on the date indicated  
below.

on February 6, 2006

Michael S. Gzybowski

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 4, 2006, applicants submit the following:

In the Office Action of January 4, 2006 the Examiner has required applicants to election  
between the following allegedly patentably distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a product, classified in class 428, subclass 116; and
- II. Claims 9-12, drawn to a method, classified in class 264, subclass 630.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby elect the invention of claims 1-  
8 (Group I) to be examined in the present application.

Applicants preserve their right to seek patent protection of the non-elected claims (9-12) by  
filing a divisional patent application during the pendency of the present application.

Appl. No. 10/602,960  
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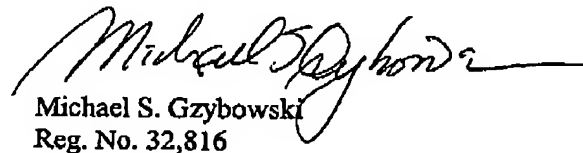
Entry of applicants' election and an early examination of the application are requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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